

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 DOE-11 SOE-02
OES-07 /107 W

-----108046 102023Z /41

R 101713Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4656
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO
USDEL MC BRUSSELS
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 00467

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, MNUC, MPOL, GW
SUBJECT: ALLEGED DEMARCHES BY EGON BAHR ON NEUTRON
WEAPON

REFERENCE: BONN 11840 DTG 191151Z JUL 77 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE GERMAN PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT SPD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EGON BAHR RECENTLY LOBBIED AMONG U.S.
OFFICIALS AGAINST THE NEUTRON WEAPON. THE EMBASSY IS
UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH LOBBYING. IN ANY EVENT, THE FRG
FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS EMPHASIZED TO THE EMBASSY THAT ANY
DEMARCHES ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON IN WHICH EGON BAHR MAY
HAVE ENGAGED WITH U.S. OFFICIALS WERE NOT CARRIED OUT
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ON BEHALF OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY

1. "DIE WELT" OF JANUARY 6 STATES THAT, ACCORDING
TO REPORTS REACHING NATO HEADQUARTERS FROM WASHINGTON,
SPD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EGON BAHR TRIED "SEVERAL WEEKS

AGO" TO INFLUENCE THE AMERICAN POSITION ON THE NEUTRON WARHEAD. THE PAPER SAYS HE "REPORTEDLY USED HIS CONTACTS WITH MEMBERS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION TO ADVISE URGENTLY AGAINST THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON WARHEAD FOR WESTERN EUROPE'S DEFENSE." BAHR REPORTEDLY ARGUED THAT THE NEUTRON WEAPON DID NOT SERVE THE CAUSE OF DETENTE AND THAT IT WOULD HAMPER THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. HE ALLEGEDLY SAID THAT "WASHINGTON SHOULD RENOUNCE THE NEUTRON WEAPON IN VIENNA AND DEMAND SOVIET COUNTER-CONCESSIONS IN THE TROOP REDUCTIONS."

2. THE PAPER SAID THAT "THE AMERICANS HAVE ASCERTAINED VIA DIPLOMATIC MEANS THAT BAHR DID NOT REFLECT THE POSITION OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON. IT WAS A MATTER OF HIS PERSONAL OPINION. HOWEVER, IT

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L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 DOE-11 SOE-02
OES-07 NRC-05 /112 W

-----107650 102055Z /40

R 101738Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4657
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO
USDEL MC BRUSSELS
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 00467

REMAINED UNCLEAR WHETHER BAHR HAD OBTAINED THE PRIOR CONCURRENCE OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SPD LEADERSHIP."

3. FINALLY, "DIE WELT" SAID THAT, IN THE MEANTIME, NATO CIRCLES HAD BEEN PLEASED AT NEWS FROM BONN THAT "THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WISHED TO KEEP A FREE HAND IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEUTRON WEAPON."

4. COMMENT: A FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE (DANNENBRING) INFORMED US ON JANUARY 10 THAT THE "DIE WELT" REPORT ON BAHR IS PROBABLY TRUE ONLY IN THE SENSE THAT BAHR, IN CONTACTS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS IN RECENT MONTHS, HAS CONFIDENTIAL

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UNDOUBTEDLY EXPRESSED AN ANTI-NEUTRON WARHEAD BIAS AND SUGGESTED THAT THE WEAPON BE USED AS A BARGAINING CHIP IN MBFR. DANNENBRING EMPHASIZED THAT OF COURSE BAHR DOES NOT SPEAK FOR THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON.

5. WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE SPD PRESS SERVICE THAT THERE IS NO PLAN AT PRESENT TO DENY THE "DIE WELT" REPORT.

6. A CDU/CSU PRESS RELEASE DATED JANUARY 6 REFERS TO THE "DIE WELT" STORY AND ROUNDLY ASSAILS BAHR FOR "APPARENTLY CONSIDERING IT HIS DUTY TO DETER THE AMERICANS FROM INTRODUCING THE NEUTRON WEAPON FOR NATO'S DEFENSE."
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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